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R 142153Z FEB 07
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3850
INFO RUEHBE/AMEMBASSY BELMOPAN 0039
RUEHWN/AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN 5545
RUEHGE/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN 3618
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 8481
RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE 3492
RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN 4652
RUEHDG/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 2765
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0381

UNCLAS NASSAU 000195

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR G/IWI, WHA/CAR RCBUDDEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWMN](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [KPAO](#) [BF](#)

SUBJECT: BAHAMAS NOMINATION FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF
COURAGE AWARD

REF: STATE 12871

11. Post nominates Dr. Sandra Dean-Patterson for the
Secretary's Award for International Women of Courage. Dr.

SIPDIS

Dean-Patterson is a pioneering advocate for women's rights in
The Bahamas. She has been a public spokeswoman on women's
rights and violence against women for decades, promoting
legislation, making innumerable appearances on radio shows,
contributing to news articles, speaking to church and civic
groups, and teaching school children. She has been tireless
in her support of women's rights and the fight against abuse.

12. Dr. Dean-Patterson opened the Bahamas Crisis Center in
1982, and remains its Director. The Crisis Center is a
non-profit organization that provides support to women who
are subject to physical, sexual and emotional abuse. It
operates a 24-hour hotline for victims of violence and works
closely in partnership with the Bahamian police and the
Department of Social Services to protect abuse victims.
After initial focus on women, the Crisis Center expanded to
provide services to abused children, including a 2006
campaign to promote non-violent conflict resolution in
schools. The courage required to operate the Crisis Center
is worthy of recognition. Especially in a small society like
The Bahamas, Dr. Dean-Patterson's high-profile protection of
women, including her work with police to prosecute violent
men, places her at risk of retribution from abusers, drug
dealers and other criminals. More information regarding the
Bahamas Crisis Center can be found at
www.bahamascrisiscentre.org.

13. In addition to her work for women through the Crisis
Center, Dr. Dean-Patterson has advocated for amendment of The
Bahamas Domestic Violence Act, has fought for equal treatment
of women in health care, and has represented The Bahamas to
the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. While
her efforts have been ongoing and successful, Dr.
Dean-Patterson has not received sufficient local or
international recognition for her contributions to women's
rights, women's safety and women's health.

14. Dr. Sandra Dean-Patterson, Director of the Bahamas Crisis
Center, can be reached at P.O. Box EE-17910, Nassau, The
Bahamas, 1-242-328-0922 (office), 1-242-328-7824 (fax). Post
requests that contact be made through Poloff. Post officer
responsible for women's issues is Poloff Gregory Floyd, who

can be reached at floydga@state.gov or 1-242-322-1181 x4510.
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